

The Range Rider



CHAMISE--"SOCIAL SECURITY" FOR RANGE CATTLE

(Chamise--a shrub found in all grazing States, variously called chamiza, fourwing saltbush, white greasewood.)

"Chamiza is a story-book plant. It will grow anywhere. It is more drought-resistant than any other plant scientists have been able to discover. It has so high a feed value that it is claimed an acre of chamiza is the equal of ten acres of range grass. It doesn't require cultivation, irrigation, or attention. It costs practically nothing to plant." That is the description given a nondescript desert plant by Chas. B. Roth in an article appearing in the May issue of The New Mexico Stockman.

Mr. C. P. Wilson of the staff of New Mexico State College, Las Cruces, has made the study of chamise a hobby. While looking for a way to help New Mexico stockgrowers with their recurrent difficulty--drought--he hit upon this dusty gray plant, whose scientific name is *Atriplex canescens*. He found that this plant is practically drought-resistant due to its tremendously long tap roots and that it will grow almost anywhere even in alkali soils. Due to its long roots which often reach a length of 60 feet, chamise has conservation value as a soil binder. Mr. Wilson emphasizes what many rangemen know--that chamise seed can be planted with success.

There are a number of varieties of this species growing in different desert sections, differing in size and shape of leaves. The larger varieties grow to a height of ten feet.

Although chamise is considered as a maintenance feed, cattle grazing solely on it for as long as nine months have maintained good flesh and condition and often have come off chamise-range ready for market. Goats as well as cattle seem to like this homely desert plant when grass is gone. Sheep and calves under six months do not thrive upon it. Horses refuse to eat it unless faced with starvation.

According to Mr. Roth, chamise appears to be the cheapest, easiest and most satisfactory way for a cattleman to insure his herd against "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" in the form of periodic drought conditions.

Ranges in New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado are being seeded with chamise. The present demand for seed is greater than the supply.

GRAZING SERVICE DISPLAY DRAWS CROWD

The Grazing Service exhibit in the lobby of Hotel Boise, headquarters for the 26th Annual Convention of the Idaho Horse and Cattle Growers Association, Boise, attracted considerable attention judging from the number of stockmen congregated around the display according to a report from region 5.

The display which depicted range improvement work of the Grazing Service was arranged on tables six feet square. Miniatures of new concrete watering trough installations developed by the Givens CCC camp were uniquely arranged with water actually running into tiny troughs. The overflow from the last of these troughs was emptied into a typical small reservoir with rip-rapped embankment like those actually constructed on the range. The area around the reservoir was enclosed with a miniature fence. The background was made of various colored rocks representing the cliffs so often found in Owyhee County.

On another of the tables was depicted a typical spring development surrounded by realistically rolling sage brush country.

In both of these exhibits miniature cattle, horses, and sheep grazed contentedly.

A large wall map showing, in color, the four Idaho grazing districts, received a great deal of attention. A large group of pictures showing improvements constructed by Grazing Service CCC camps was also included in the exhibit.

Much credit for the attractive display goes to Superintendents Hinton, Busing, and Craig who worked with District Grazier Beck in the preparation of the models and arrangement of pictures.

It is believed that other regions can glean from the Idaho display many ideas which may be utilized in their own State when opportunities present themselves.

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HEALTH FROM LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

Dr. C. A. Elvehjem, biochemist at the University of Wisconsin and researcher for the National Livestock and Meat Board has found that meat is rich in vitamins that are important to our diet. He says, "Meat is more than calories and filler for the stomach. Our tests show that the Vitamin B complexes it contains will cure, or prevent, nervous disorders, high blood pressure, skin diseases and pellagra, just as the Vitamin C in citrus and milk will cure scurvy and the Vitamins A and D in vegetables and cereals and sunshine will help rickets." --Farm Journal, Inc.

(It would appear that, unlike spinach, a juicy beef steak or lamb chop can be good for us and still be good!)

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CLASS IN STONE MASONRY BUILDS SHRINE AT UTAH CAMP

A desire for a place of worship on the part of enrollees at camp G-114, Hanksville, Utah, and interest and guidance from the camp educational adviser have resulted in the construction of an impressive, small shrine in the heart of the San Rafael Desert where regular religious services may be held.

The Hanksville camp is one of the most isolated camps in Utah, and from the standpoint of communication, is one of the most isolated camps in the United States. Ninety percent of the New York and New Jersey boys that make up this camp are of the Catholic faith. The nearest parish is 125 miles away. Early this year Camp Educational Adviser Darrell A. Mortensen conceived the idea of building a place of worship at the camp. He designed the grotto and supervised its construction of native stone. Eighty boys enrolled in the class of stone masonry spent over a thousand hours of work on their own time to complete the structure.

The grotto was finished May 27, 1940 and dedicated for use as a chapel by the Most Reverend Bishop Duane G. Hunt of Salt Lake City who traveled 250 miles to officiate at the dedication services.

It is especially heartening at this time to see and hear about this evidence of religious faith and good will on the part of American youth in the Civilian Conservation Corps. Mr. Mortensen's successful efforts to weave the educational program into this worthwhile undertaking are extremely commendable.

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WEEDS

A sound film on "Weeds", released this month by the Bureau of Reclamation, presents the case against weeds on the farm and shows practical methods of combating them on irrigated land. This film may be obtained only in 16 mm sound edition, requiring a 16 mm sound projection machine for showing. The time of the film is 20 minutes.

Anyone desiring to show this film should direct a request to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D. C.

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ASSISTANT TO CHIEF OF LAND DESIGNATED

On June 8, Mr. J. H. Leech was appointed as Assistant Chief of the Branch of Land Acquisition and Control, with headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition to his new duties, Mr. Leech will continue to handle the work of Chief Hearings Officer.

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ONE WAY IT CAN BE DONE

Superintendent Quinland (G-68, Oregon) occasionally flies over the territory in the vicinity of his camp to locate possible sites for water development projects.

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From Montana's Malta District (No. 1) comes a lament from a would-be poet who, when he was younger, wrote of yellow cow-slips and the awakening of spring. He says that we now talk of forage factor, proper-use, digestive ratio and indicator plants, and neglect the beauties of Nature when they do not fit into the scientific theory of carrying capacities. Such is the price of progress!

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NEW BULLETIN

A bulletin entitled "Range Resources of Rich County, Utah", by L. A. Stoddart, has just been released by the Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah, and is now available to range users and range examiners. The number of the bulletin is 291.

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On May 2 the Acting Under Secretary approved stock-raising homestead designation No. 875, designating as stock-raising in character 160 acres of land in Colorado, 40 acres in New Mexico, and 80 acres in Wyoming, to permit adjudication of certain stock-raising homestead cases.

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Elbert Hubbard said:

"IF you work for a man, in heaven's name work for him; speak well of him and stand by the institution he represents. Remember, an ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness.

"IF you must growl, condemn, and eternally find fault, why, resign your position and when you are on the outside, damn to your heart's content--but as long as you are part of the institution do not condemn it; if you do, the first high wind that comes along will blow you away and probably you will never know why."

(--Suggested by Montana News Letter.)

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